

Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 2/25/2012

Count Name: Delaware County (Glenolden)	Count Code: PAGL	Count Date: 12/17/2011
Organizations & Sponsors:	# of Party Hours: 172.00	Species reported on count date: 85

Compiler(s)

First Name	Last Name	Email	Is Primary Compiler
David	Eberly	david.eberly@gmail.com	Yes

Start & End Times

Start time	End time
04:30 AM	05:00 PM

Effort

Observers	
In Field	Total Number: 61
	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 23
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 23
At Feeders	Total Number: 11

Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
car	47.00	335.00	Miles
foot	125.00	84.00	Miles

Other Time and Distance			
	Hours	Distance	Units
At Feeders	32.00		
Nocturnal Birding	16.00	35.00	Miles
Total Party	172.00	419.00	Miles

Weather

Temperature	Minimum: 32.0 F°	Maximum: 42.0 F°
Wind Direction	Northwest	
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 5.00 mph	Maximum: 20.00 mph
Snow Depth	Minimum: 0.00 In	Maximum: 0.00 In
Still Water	Open	
Moving Water	Open	

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AM and PM Conditions			
Cloud Cover	AM:	Partly Clear	PM: Cloudy
AM Rain	None		
AM Snow	None		
PM Rain	None		
PM Snow	None		

Checklist

Species	Number or cw	Flags	Max Number	Number Of Counts
Snow Goose	2115	HC,	2115/112	24
Canada Goose	14824		15880/109	61
Tundra Swan	62		130/77	39
Wood Duck	10		13/102	41
Gadwall	20		82/102	39
American Black Duck	66		4700/63	53
Mallard	376		2245/76	78
Northern Shoveler	72		312/108	47
Northern Pintail	288		13000/68	52
Green-winged Teal	263		2000/76	40
Lesser Scaup	2		1627/80	35
Bufflehead	10		85/79	65
Hooded Merganser	62		80/108	49
Common Merganser	23		335/90	52
Ruddy Duck	1	LC	20188/57	70
Wild Turkey	13	HC,	13/112	5
Common Loon	1		4/102	29
Pied-billed Grebe	9		24/80	55
Horned Grebe	1		8/84	36
Double-crested Cormorant	29		61/102	30
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	30		96/93	72
Black Vulture	77		191/111	25
Turkey Vulture	214		322/111	68
Bald Eagle Adults: 7 Immatures: 4 Unknowns:	11		13/109	32
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16		45/102	60
Cooper's Hawk	13		26/108	70
Red-shouldered Hawk	6		15/52	79

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Red-tailed Hawk	59		117/102	91
American Kestrel	1		66/78	53
Merlin	cw		3/103	18
Peregrine Falcon	3	HC,	3/112	25
Virginia Rail	1	US,	1/112	11
American Coot	34		241/88	55
American Woodcock	1		12/75	37
Ring-billed Gull	677		4003/84	80
Herring Gull	61		10000/71	86
Great Black-backed Gull	14		220/93	63
Rock Pigeon	869		869/112	9
Mourning Dove	520		1743/93	76
Eastern Screech-Owl	22		66/83	30
Great Horned Owl	11		44/89	53
Snowy Owl	1	US,	1/112	7
Belted Kingfisher	18		41/99	69
Red-bellied Woodpecker	205	HC,	205/112	55
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21	HC,	21/112	51
Downy Woodpecker	188		262/82	89
Hairy Woodpecker	36		50/108	86
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	40		134/92	60
Pileated Woodpecker	12		17/108	46
Northern Shrike	cw		1/108	3
Blue Jay	492		1158/82	85
American Crow	712		4164/93	65
Fish Crow	2		220/70	70
Carolina Chickadee	448		1045/82	71
Tufted Titmouse	404		605/83	87
White-breasted Nuthatch	185		242/83	88
Brown Creeper	9		45/83	85
Carolina Wren	144		401/93	89
Winter Wren	16		20/111	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14		123/93	80
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4		33/73	64
Eastern Bluebird	100		132/106	66
Hermit Thrush	5		29/108	70
American Robin	3274		9867/102	61
Gray Catbird	2		23/85	52
Northern Mockingbird	70		284/83	53

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Brown Thrasher	1		10/71	44
European Starling	2330		19000/71	53
Cedar Waxwing	127		4649/86	66
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2		63/85	6
Eastern Towhee	136	HC,	136/112	25
American Tree Sparrow	8		3700/66	61
Field Sparrow	14		320/67	87
Fox Sparrow	21		248/59	82
Song Sparrow	448		3600/67	91
Swamp Sparrow	7		520/66	84
White-throated Sparrow	1684		2926/58	91
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	932		2071/82	78
Northern Cardinal	483		967/89	53
Red-winged Blackbird	829		6300/66	87
Rusty Blackbird	3		400/41	66
Common Grackle	2362		9377/95	53
Brown-headed Cowbird	47		1500/71	62
Purple Finch	3		557/78	81
House Finch	407		2673/94	54
American Goldfinch	182		1400/62	64
House Sparrow	322		1600/72	62
Total Individuals	37637			
Total Species Reported	85			

cw = Reported count week
 US = Flagged as an unusual species
 HC = Flagged as an unusually high count
 LC = Flagged as an unusually low count

Species Requiring Rare Bird Reports to be Submitted to Regional Editor

Species

Virginia Rail - [Rallus limicola]

Snowy Owl - [Bubo scandiacus]

Special Aspects

The 90th Glenolden, PA Christmas Bird Count (part of the 112th Audubon CBC) was held Saturday, December 17, 2011. This year 61 registered field observers ventured out in 23 parties logging 172 party-hours and 419 miles. Eleven feeder watchers contributed good numbers as well, including a Red-shouldered Hawk!

The weather was cooperative. Sun in the early morning quickly gave way to overcast skies as a cold front pushed through. Riding the front were thousands of geese in large skeins high in the sky. This presented a compiling dilemma as several parties reported high numbers as they flew north to south. Duplicate counting was inevitable. Rather to try & figure this out I chose to add them all figuring many were duplicates but many were missed. Consequently a new high count was set for Snow Goose (2115) beating the previous high of 1856 in 2008. The 14824 Canada Goose count was not quite a record.

Highlights:

Snowy Owl at the PECO plant in Eddystone. Inaccessible to the public, the bird was identified and photographed by game commission officers monitoring Peregrine Falcons. It was confirmed to be present on count day. This species has been found on 4 counts 1937-1971 and was a count week bird in 1949 and 1980.

Virginia Rail at Tinicum was a bird known to be present and deftly picked out on CBC day by the Tinicum Philly team.

Eastern Towhees were everywhere. The count of 136 individuals smashed the previous record of 84 set in 2005. I could find no explanation other than the warm winter.

This year we logged 85 species on CBC day; below the 90 from last year and way below the historical average of around 100. There were two "count week" birds: Merlin and the Northern Shrike at Tinicum which I think was seen every day this winter except CBC day despite heroic effort by the Philly team.

Other highs were 13 Wild Turkey (8 in 2007); 3 Peregrine Falcons (tied 3 in 2007); 205 Red-bellied Woodpeckers (smashing 163 in 2005); 21 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (not quite smashing the previous record of 20 in 1981).

Why was the species count so low? Several not uncommon winter visitors are absent this winter. Most notable was zero Red-breasted Nuthatches. This was the first miss for this species since 1967. Pine Siskins and, in stark contrast to last year, Black-capped Chickadees were not seen. Examples of other species that might be expected but were not found are Ring-necked Duck, Northern Shoveler, Am Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, Northern Harrier, Horned Lark, Savannah Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow.

Unfortunately one Ruddy Duck (high 20,188 in 1956) and one American Kestrel continued their downward trends.

Details of species counts can be found in the list. One matter of explanation: since the first CBC was in 1900 count #1 was Dec 1900, #2 Dec 1901 etc. On the table max/count refer to # individuals/count number so e.g. count 102 was Dec 2001. The number of counts the species was reported can be deceiving. For example Northern Flicker can be reported as such or as Northern Flicker (yellow shafted) and these are not combined in the totals!!

One more sort of editorial comment. Try perusing the high counts and pay special attention to the numbers from the mid-50s to the early 80s and compare them to current counts. Where have all the birds gone? Sprawl is the immediate reaction and I would suppose is the major contributor. Whatever the reason it gives me pause.

Detailed historical data for the CBC can be found at Christmasbirdcount.org. The count code for the Glenolden (Delaware County) is PAGL.

Thank you all for your participation! Mark your calendars for the CBC next year, December 15, 2012.